

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 MC-01 EB-07 /076 W

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R 271135Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8569

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJ: PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 315

1. PAK PRESS JANUARY 25 HEADLINED PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S LETTER TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM COUNTERING LETTER SENT WALDHEIM NOVEMBER 27 BY AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAUD. MANY PAPERS CARRIED FULL TEXT. WE ARE POUCHING IT TO ADDRESSEES, THOUGH WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT AND USUN WILL ALREADY HAVE RECEIVED COPY VIA PAKS IN NEW YORK.(PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE LETTER WAS CIRCULATED AT UN).

2. LETTER IS LARGELY FAMILIAR REITERATION OF PAK POSITION ON DISPUTE WITH AFGHANISTAN AND INCLUDES PREDICTABLE RIPOSTES TO ASSERTIONS IN DAUD MESSAGE. IN SESSION WITH POL COUNSELOR AND VISITING DEPARTMENT PLANNING STAFFER THORNTON, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (AFGHANISTAN) MANSUR AHMED DOWNPLAYED IT AS NOTHING MORE THAN PROFORMA MOVE IN WAKE AFGHANS(LETTER. ("THEY SENT ONE, SO WE HAD TO SEND ONE").)

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3. PRINCIPAL POINTS IN BHUTTO LETTER WERE:

--DAUD MESSAGE PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE OF AFGHANISTAN'S CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN PAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OF ITS DESIGNS AGAINST PAKISTAN'S INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE. GOA HAS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE WITHIN PAKISTAN.

-- AFGHANS QUESTION LEGALITY OF NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, NOT SURPRISING GIVEN UNFAMILIARITY OF DAUD WITH DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES. ACTUALLY, PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES HAVE FUNCTIONED NORMALLY OVER PAST 20 MONTHS.

--PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBER OF AFGHANS IN PAKISTAN, CALLED NORMAL BY DAUD, WOULD HARDLY BE CONCEIVABLE IF GOA ALLEGATIONS OF PAK SUPPRESSION WERE TRUE. AS FOR ALLEGED REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN TO AFGHANISTAN, "IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT INACCESSIBLE PARTS OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED SANCTUARIES FOR OFFENDERS AND OUTLAWS FLEEING JUSTICE FROM THE ADJOINING TERRITORY OF PAKISTAN".

-- PAKS REMAIN COMMITTED TO UN PRINCIPLES OF RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES; AFGHANS SHOULD DO LIKEWISE.

4. MEANWHILE, PAK PRESS HAS MADE LITTLE IF ANY RECENT MENTION OF BHUTTO'S OUTSTANDING INVITATION TO DAUD. ASKED WHERE IT STOOD, MANSUR AHMED TOLD USG OFFICERS MATTER WAS NOT ENTIRELY DEAD AND CLAIMED TO FIND SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS IN WHAT HE SAID WAS AFGHAN INTEREST IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF PRELIMINARY TALKS AT LOWER LEVELS. HE ADMITTED THAT GIVEN AFGHAN CONDITIONS FOR SUMMIT, AS LAID DOWN BY AFGHAN CHARGE' SHERZOI(REFTEL), PROSPECTS WERE NOT PROMISING. (THEY WILL NOT BE ENHANCED BY PUBLICITY GIVEN BHUTTO LETTER TO WASHINGTON, THOUGH IN LIGHT GOP RECORD OF MAKING CONCILIATORY MOVES WITHOUT INTERRUPTION IN ITS PROPAGANDA

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CAMPAIGNS IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO READ CIRCULATION OF LETTER AS SIGNAL TO AFGHANS). HIS ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WAS SIMILAR TO EMBASSY KABUL'S IN REFTEL: THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE BASIC CHANGE SINCE THE SECRETARY VISITED THE TWO COUNTRIES OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1.

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